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1278 '99 MAY 21 A10:29

May 14, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Meat Irradiation FSIS Docket Number 97-076P

Dear Sir/Madam:

We were shocked and dismayed to learn of the proposal to allow for irradiation of meat. There have been no long-term studies conducted regarding the safety of such a procedure. The purpose of such a procedure, to eradicate pathogens, should be addressed at the animal production level.

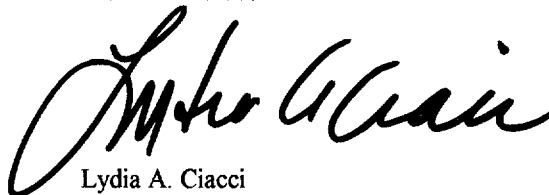
Lastly, if the USDA decides to utilize this procedure, any irradiated meat or poultry product should CONSPICUOUSLY display the irradiation notice and "radura," the international irradiation symbol. As concerned parents and consumers, we have a right to know whether the meat on the shelves at the supermarket have been irradiated. There should be no expiration date for such a warning.

We look forward to hearing your position on this issue.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Ciacci



Lydia A. Ciacci

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